

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus unit replacement assisting method, comprising:

~~a step of~~ receiving, from a first user apparatus, request information expressing a wish to replace a first detector in a first X-ray CT apparatus with a second detector;

~~a step of~~ receiving, from a second user apparatus different from said first user apparatus, release information informing release of ~~[[a]]~~ the second detector in a second X-ray CT apparatus usable in said first X-ray CT apparatus;

~~a step of~~ presenting inquiry information to said first user apparatus communicating via a computer whether a first user is going to use a refurbished second detector as the second detector for said first X-ray CT apparatus,

wherein said refurbished second detector is the second detector.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a step of~~ making a provisional contract with said first user apparatus when information expressing a wish to use said second detector is received from said first user apparatus in response to the inquiry.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 1, wherein:

said first detector and said second detector have substantially a same capability.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 1, wherein:

~~said step of presenting the inquiry information is a step of~~ includes offering maintenance for said second detector.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a step of~~ calculating and receiving a trade-in price of said second detector in said second user apparatus where said second detector may be replaced with a third detector.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 6, wherein:

~~said step of receiving the trade-in price is a step of~~ includes receiving in said second user apparatus a price of said third detector after deduction of the trade-in price of said second detector.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 6, wherein:

~~said step of receiving the trade-in price includes~~, making a trial calculation of the trade-in price by adding expenses needed for replacement including a transportation fee to a trade-in base price, judging a value of a trade-in from the trial calculation, and receiving the trade-in price in the second user apparatus when the trade-in is determined to be profitable.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 6, further comprising:

~~a step of~~ receiving operation history information through an on-line or off-line transmission in a case where said apparatus is configured to automatically record the operation history information during use, and determining a value of a trade-in with understanding of a use status of said second detector for trade-in from the operation history information,

wherein ~~said step of~~ receiving the trade-in price includes determining the trade-in price based on a result of the value determination.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 1, wherein:

~~said step of~~ presenting the inquiry information ~~is a step of~~ includes presenting said first user apparatus a replacement cost lower than a price of said second detector when newly purchased.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a step of~~ receiving from said first user apparatus whether said second detector as a desired replacement unit is a new unit or a secondhand unit or whether a secondhand unit is acceptable.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving from said second user apparatus information related to post-treatment of said second detector.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a step of~~ receiving information about a maintenance fee of said second detector by said second user apparatus.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a step of~~ receiving expenses needed for replacement with said second detector by said first user apparatus.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a step of~~ receiving a dispatch date of a service person who performs detector replacement by said first user apparatus.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a step of~~ confirming a reply from said first user apparatus; and

~~a step of~~ managing at least one of a production line in a factory, a detector maintenance line, and dispatch of a service person, depending on the reply from said first user apparatus.

Claims 17-34 (Canceled).

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a step of~~ receiving, from a third user apparatus different from said first and second user apparatus, request information expressing a wish to use said first detector in a third apparatus.

Claims 36-37 (Canceled).

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): An apparatus unit replacing assisting method, according to claim [[36]] 1, wherein the first detector and the second detector are multi slice detectors, and the second detector is configured to collect a greater number of slices than the first detector.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): An apparatus unit replacing assisting method, according to claim [[36]] 1, wherein the first detector is a single slice detector, and the second detector is a multi slice detector.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): An apparatus unit replacing assisting method, according to claim [[38]] 1, wherein the first detector and the second detector include data acquisition systems relating to the multi slice detector.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): An apparatus unit replacing assisting method, according to claim [[39]] 1, wherein the first detector and the second detector include data acquisition systems relating to the single slice detector and the multi slice detector.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): An apparatus unit replacing assisting method, according to claim [[40]] 1, wherein the first detector and the second detector include software for reconfiguration.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): An apparatus unit replacing assisting method, according to claim [[41]] 1, wherein the first detector and the second detector include software for reconfiguration.

Claims 44-49 (Canceled).

Claim 50 (New): An apparatus unit replacement assisting method, comprising:
receiving, from a first user apparatus, request information expressing a wish to replace a first magnetic field coil in a first MRI apparatus with a second magnetic field coil;
receiving, from a second user apparatus different from said first user apparatus, release information informing release of a second magnetic field coil in a second MRI apparatus usable in said first MRI apparatus;

presenting inquiry information to said first user apparatus communicating via a computer whether a first user is going to use a refurbished second magnetic field coil as the second magnetic field coil for said first MRI apparatus,

wherein said refurbished second magnetic field coil is the second magnetic field coil.

Claim 51 (New): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 50, further comprising:

making a provisional contract with said first user apparatus when information expressing a wish to use said second magnetic field coil is received from said first user apparatus in response to the inquiry.

Claim 52 (New): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 50, wherein:

presenting the inquiry information includes offering maintenance for said second magnetic field coil.

Claim 53 (New): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 50, further comprising:

calculating and receiving a trade-in price of said second magnetic field coil in said second user apparatus where said second magnetic field coil may be replaced with a third magnetic field coil.

Claim 54 (New): The apparatus unit replacement assisting method according to claim 53, wherein:

receiving the trade-in price includes receiving in said second user apparatus a price of said third magnetic field coil after deduction of the trade-in price of said second magnetic field coil.